Heart disease

†532. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH: 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 million people are estimated to be suffering from heart disease in the country;

(b) if not, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that expenditure to the tune of Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 2.5 lakh is a normal thing for treatment of this disease;

(d) if not, the details in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are considering to provide any economical medical treatment for the persons who are not able to afford such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) According to AIIMS, the number of people suffering from heart disease is increasing. Recent population-based surveys of coronary artery disease show a figure of nearly 10% though there are great regional variations. The reasons for high cost of the treatment is that most of the equipments required for the treatment of heart diseases are manufactured abroad and have to be imported. These include angioplasty equipments required for open heart surgeries and pacemakers. National Illness Assistance Fund has been set up during January, 1997 to provide assistance to patients living below poverty line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases including cardiac problems to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals/Institutes or other Government hospitals. In addition to the above, financial assistance is provided to the poor and needly chronic patients.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.